

Conference on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and the 15th anniversary of the PCA Mauritius Office

Caudan, 31st January 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, and Friends,

Mauritius may be a small island, but today it stands tall. As we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the 15th Anniversary of the PCA Mauritius Office, we take pride in how far we have come. Yet, progress is not a destination but an ongoing journey. We have built a strong foundation, but to be at the forefront of international arbitration, we must refine our strengths, reinforce trust in our system, and ensure that arbitration in Mauritius continues to evolve and flourish.

Fifteen years ago, at the launch of the PCA Mauritius Office, Professor Jan Paulsson issued a challenge: “Mauritius must prove itself as a matter of daily reality in the future.” His words still hold true today. Arbitration thrives on trust, reputation, and results. The international arbitration community does not merely take notice of a jurisdiction; it observes, it measures, and it assesses. Mauritius has made significant progress, but our work does not end here. We must remain an arbitration-friendly destination, one that continues to inspire confidence through integrity, efficiency, and professionalism.

From the outset, the Government has understood that for Mauritius to establish itself as an arbitration hub, it must create a system built on fairness and independence. As our Prime Minister stated at the time: “The role of the Government is, and will only be, to ensure the existence of the most favourable conditions for international arbitration in Mauritius. It is axiomatic for success that the Government observes an absolute rule of non-interference.” This principle remains central to our vision.

A robust legal framework and institutional environment have been put in place, and our commitment to upholding best practices remains unwavering. However, arbitration is a field that evolves with the world around it. To maintain our standing, we must be proactive, forward-looking, and adaptable to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

To sustain our progress, we must reinforce trust through fairness and efficiency, equip the next generation with the skills to navigate a rapidly evolving arbitration landscape, embrace technological advancements such as digital hearings and AI, and expand our leadership in the region to ensure Mauritius remains an attractive and reliable forum for dispute resolution. As we celebrate these anniversaries, we recognize that the pursuit of excellence in arbitration is a continuous effort. It is a privilege to be part of this journey, but it is also a responsibility—one that we must carry forward with diligence and purpose.

The road ahead requires dedication, effort, and collective commitment. But Mauritius has always risen to the occasion, and we will continue to do so. The next chapter of our arbitration journey begins today, and Mauritius is prepared to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you.

Gavin Glover, SC
Attorney-General